

Talking Points: HASC Members' Day

Drafted by: Conner
Reviewed by:
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Storyline: *As the Armed Services Committee prepares to consider the FY 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, I am focused on supporting the priorities that are important to my constituents, including jet noise reduction, cryopreservation options for wounded veterans and servicemembers, AI education, DIANA funding and financial literacy initiatives for military families.*

- Thank you, Chair Rogers and Ranking Member Smith, for hosting today's Members' Day hearing.
- It is different being on this side of the dais after 20 years of service on the Armed Services Committee.
- Although I will not participate in Committee markup of this year's National Defense Authorization Act, I will take the next few minutes to highlight the priorities that are important

to the people I represent in Washington state's Second Congressional District.

Support Jet Noise Reduction Efforts

- In communities surrounding military installations, jet noise from flight operations is a frequent concern.
- In previous NDAA's, I have secured funding for jet noise reduction, and I have supported legislation to expand sound monitoring, reduce engine noise in private homes and reduce future training flights while maintaining training standards.
- In my district, the sailors at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island are working to reduce the impact of flight operations on surrounding communities.
- I request the committee requires the Navy to provide a report and briefing on the status of their noise reduction research.

Cryopreservation Pilot Program

- America's women and men in uniform sacrifice greatly. They should not have to sacrifice their dreams of having a family.
- I have met with veterans and servicemembers who struggle with having children due to medical complications.
- Wounded in training events and during combat tours, they have lost the ability to conceive a child.
- Establishing a pilot program to cryopreserve gametes prior to training and deployments would enable servicemembers to choose to have a family should a dramatic injury occur.
- I ask that all members support this effort to help veterans and servicemembers start a family.

AI Education for Servicemembers

- The world has already seen the effect artificial intelligence (AI) can have with the release of OpenAI's ChatGPT.
- Last year, I asked General Milley how the Department of Defense (DoD) is integrating AI into Professional Military Education.
- His response shed light that the DoD has limited AI education opportunities to senior officers attending a war college.
- To prepare for future wars, to improve administrative efficiency and promote the ethical use of AI, junior officers and enlisted ranks need to have access to this AI education.
- The DoD should encourage its servicemembers to use AI to solve problems and create efficiency, not solely to counter the "kill chain".

- I request the committee require the DoD to establish an AI education program for all ranks, officers and enlisted, to ensure all servicemembers understand the concepts and ethics of AI.

NATO Defense Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA)

- As a member of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and a supporter of federal investment in emerging technology, I have supported NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA).
- DIANA will enable NATO members to develop technology together and find academic and industry resources across the alliance.

- In last year's NDAA, I requested funding for DIANA and pushed for the DoD to select a U.S. representative to DIANA.
- I am pleased that Ms. Barbara McQuiston was elected as chair of the DIANA Board of Directors and that The Pacific Northwest Mission Acceleration Center in Seattle was selected as the second DIANA site in the U.S.
- I ask the Committee to support emerging technology and NATO by continuing to invest in DIANA.

Financial Literacy for Military Families

- The DoD recognizes financial readiness as a crucial component of not only military members lives but their families and more specifically their children.
- During these unprecedented times, financial literacy education in the Department of Defense Education Activity

(DoDEA) schools are critical to preparing military children for the future.

- I ask the Committee to include a provision in the NDAA requiring DoDEA schools to add a financial literacy course as a high school graduation requirement.

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You talk about the military service but then ask for a DoDEA program

Conclusion

- Thank you for taking the time to consider my priorities for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2024 NDAA.

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